

Attorney Docket No. BC-0256-US02

#6  
B. Webb  
9/23/03IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Bruce W. Gibbs	)	
		)	Art Unit: 3762
Serial No.	09/672,519	)	
		)	Examiner: Patricia Bianco
Filed:	September 27, 2000	)	
		)	
Title:	Extracorporeal Blood Processing Methods	)	
	and Apparatus	)	
		)	

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I with traverse.

**REMARKS**

In her Restriction Requirement, the Examiner declares that the inventions are distinct because: (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (separate utility such as a disposable fluid cassette assembly for use in platelet separation).

However, Applicant's claims are not directed to a combination and subcombination *per se* MPEP 806.05 (6) sets forth that a combination is an organization of which a subcombination or element is a part. Applicant's claims are directed, however, to a method and apparatus. The method claims are for collecting leukoreduced red blood cells using a centrifugal apheresis system including a preconnected disposable system (Group II). The apparatus claims (Group I) are directed to a preconnected disposable system for an apheresis system for separating blood into at least one component.